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ABSTRACT

The devastation caused by unemployment among the nation's approximately 2 million American Indians is great. Analysis of January 1985 state unemployment rates reveals an enormous disparity between average state rates and the rates for the state American Indian populations. While the official unemployment rate in 28 states ranged from 5.8% to 12.1%, the state rates for unemployed American Indians ranged from 18% to 66%. Because many Indians stay in metropolitan areas only a short time--quickly becoming discouraged and disillusioned by the high cost of housing, food, and other essentials--accurate urban Indian unemployment statistics are hard to come by. Recent Indian unemplyment rates for cities with large American Indian populations were 40% for Los Angeles, 50% for Omaha, 19% for 23-25 year olds and 45% for youth and older age groups for New York City, and 49% for Minneapolis/St. Paul. Federal programs assisting Native Americans have been severely scaled back with termination of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act and reduction of Johnson-O'Malley education program funding. Direct and indirect federal job creation efforts presently awaiting Congressional action include the American Conservation Corps, Community Renewal Employment Act, The Administration for Native Americans, and Small Business Administration Section 8(a) programs. (NEC)

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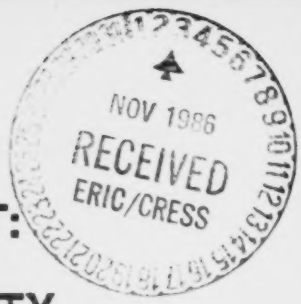

A FIRST FRIDAY REPORT

AMERICAN INDIAN UNEMPLOYMENT:

CONFRONTING A DISTRESSING REALITY

OCTOBER 4, 1985

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AMERICAN INDIAN UNEMPLOYMENT -- CONFRONTING A DISTRESSING REALITY

Words for describing the extent of unemployment among American Indians are often hard to come by. "Devastating," "unbelievable," "severe," "massive," and "horrendous" are some of the terms people use to describe what is happening to our country's original residents in the labor market. Unbelievable or not, the numbers tell a tale of joblessness, the likes of which are not seen among any other population group.

If people assume that unemployment is not as severe a problem among American Indians as it is among other groups, perhaps due to misconceptions such as "The government takes care of them," or "Indians get free housing and medical care and a lifetime income," they are mistaken. Federal programs assisting Native Americans have been severely scaled back in recent years. The termination of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) has had a far-reaching negative impact on employment opportunities for Indians, as has the reduction in funding for the Johnson-O'Malley education program. Even subsidized housing for the Indian is substandard--it is the only place where government housing is constructed with no indoor plumbing. And as this report points out, income and education levels for Indians are far below the national standard.

While the numbers of people affected might be small -- there are approximately 2 million American Indians in the U.S.A. -- the devastation caused by unemployment among Indian communities is great. Those who chose to stay on the reservations are not immune to joblessness, nor are those who look to the cities and urban areas for work.

Every state has an American Indian population. Some have far higher concentrations than others. Much like the population as a whole, the problems confronting the jobless are as diverse as the states themselves--the decline of the lumber industry in the Northwest, the farm crisis in the Midwest, and the export of industrial jobs in the steel producing region all have their impact on the American Indian communities. The following states have large numbers of American Indians suffering from the effects of unemployment, trying to latch onto a recovery that is not their own, in a land that most certainly is their own.

CALIFORNIA

According to the 1980 census, California contains the largest number of Indians in the nation. Twenty-five thousand persons live on or near the 100 rancherias (the official designation for a reservation in California) around the state; the remaining 176,311 reside in Los Angeles, Sacramento, and the Bay Area cities.

The statewide unemployment rate in January 1985 was 8 percent, but the average rate among Indians was 55 percent. On three of the largest rancherias with populations over 500, joblessness ranged from 80 percent among the Resighini and Karuk in northern California to 89 percent among the Santa Ysabel in the southern part of the state. Part of the disparity is due to the constant migration between metropolitan areas and reservations in search of employment. Low levels of education and discrimination are additional barriers to Indian job-seekers. The rancherias are generally very small and isolated, and aside from a few timber lots, contain no natural resources or industry.

Three of the largest rancherias are experiencing jobless rates far in excess of the state average as the following percentages of jobless indicate:

* Hoopa (population 2,020) -- 55%
* Round Valley (population 801) -- 59%
* Tule River (population 663) -- 34%

OKLAHOMA

The 1980 census recorded 169,464 Indians in the state of Oklahoma, many of whom live on the 39 recognized reservations or nearby border towns and rural areas. The average unemployment among American Indians is 18 percent, compared with an overall state rate of 8.2 percent.

Six tribes in the southwest part of the state are suffering significantly higher rates than even the above-average percentages from the rest of the state: Caddo (31%), Wichita (34%), Delaware (45%), Comanche (46%), Kiowa (47%), and Apache (53%). This is due in large part to the recent declines in the employment and royalties from oil production, oil related businesses, and leasing operations.

The ten counties in southeastern Oklahoma encompassing the Choctaw are experiencing the highest unemployment in the entire state. Most of the employed Choctow work for the tribe, but there is virtually no industry except a small and declining timber and wood products industry. The largely rural Oklahoma Indians face the same employment barriers -- lack of transportation and support services as other rural people. In addition, the decreasing value of farm land and the national farm debt crisis are affecting Indian landowners and lessors.

The three largest tribes in Oklahoma are experiencing jobless rates as follows:

* Cherokee (population 42,992) -- 19%
* Creek (population 42,519) -- 20%
* Choctaw (population 20,054) -- 24%

NEW MEXICO/ARIZONA AND THE NAVAJO NATION

Following California and Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona contain the largest concentration of American Indians in the nation: 104,777, and 152,857 persons respectively. A considerable number of these are members of the Zuni and Pueblo tribes in Arizona. However, over 160,000 are members of the Navajo Nation, which spans 21 million acres of New Mexico, Arizona and Utah.

The jobless rate for Indians in New Mexico in January 1985 was 32 percent compared with an overall rate for the state of 7.9 percent. At the same time, Indians in Arizona suffered 41 percent unemployment while the rest of the state averaged 11.2 percent joblessness.

The geography of both these states contributes to the problem: the semi-arid climate and a widely scattered population connected by few paved roads increase business costs to new industry. Arizona copper mines have nearly disappeared and New Mexico uranium faces low demand, dislocating hundreds of Indian workers. The many independent Pueblo communities in New Mexico (a combined population of 24,000) are too small to employ all of their labor force; on average, 42 percent of all Northern and Southern Pueblos were out of work in January 1985. Among the larger tribes, Indian unemployment was at least two and a half times the state averages in January, as the following population figures and unemployment percentages show:

New Mexico

* Zuni (population 7,754) -- 77%
* Hopi (population 8,952) -- 48%

Arizona

* Papago (population 22,501) -- 30%
* Pima (population 11,106) -- 32%
* Fort Yuma (population 4,143) -- 66%

THE NAVAJO NATION

The Navajo Nation is the largest American Indian tribe in the United States, both in terms of population and land holdings. Over one third of all Indians in the U.S. are Navajo who reside in an area the size of the state of West Virginia. There are coal mines on the reservation and small defense contractors in the border towns which employ several hundred people. However, there is very little private industry on the reservation. Navajo unemployment is estimated to be from 40 percent to 75 percent of the labor force. Navajos seldom migrate from the reservation and efforts to attract private industry are complicated by the political and economic relationships between the Navajo Nation and each of the neighboring states.

Over half of the Navajo population is under the age of 18 and attending what many regard as poor quality schools. Navajo adults suffer limited English speaking ability, poor health, and limited formal education. This contributes to the fact that per capita income among Navajos in 1984 was $2,214.00 compared to $7,731.00 for the U.S. as a whole.

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina contains 64,635 American Indians according to the 1980 census. Only 9,000 Cherokee are federally recognized and 40,000 Lumbee state-recognized, so that calculating Indian unemployment is more difficult in this state than in others. However, January 1985 Bureau of Indian Affairs statistics indicate that 39 percent of the Indian labor force was out of work compared with 7.1 percent for the state overall.

The Lumbee, concentrated in Robeson County, and other tribes in the eastern part of the state are seasonally employed in agriculture and construction, but suffer from the same lack of mobility that faces other rural workers. Estimates of joblessness among these tribes range from 50 percent to 80 percent due in part to the fact that very few North Carolina Indians are high school graduates.

Most Cherokee rely on seasonal tourism for employment. Fewer than 5 percent are able to start related businesses, however, so that the average annual income is less than $5,000.00. The recent decline in the textile industry has dislocated hundreds of Indian workers. Mountainous geography, lack of transportation, and a lack of support services also contribute to joblessness in western North Carolina. Official unemployment among the Cherokee in January 1985 was 45 percent.

ALASKA

According to the 1980 census, there are 68,110 Alaska Natives including over 200 Eskimo, Aleut, Athabascan, Tlingit, and Tsimpshian communities. Most Alaska natives live in villages which can only be connected to the employment centers of Juneau, Anchorage and Nome by aircraft. The fishing industry on Alaska's southern coast provides some jobs and there is seasonal work in thetourist industry. However, there is very little manufacturing in Alaska and Natives rely on government employment and subsistance village economies for work. In January 1985, 51 percent to 62 percent of all Alaska natives were out of work. This compares with an overall state unemployment rate of 11.3 percent.

WASHINGTON

Among the 22 federally recognized tribes in the state of Washington (American Indian population 60,771), the average jobless rate is 52 percent, compared with an overall state rate of 10.8 percent. The depressed nature of the state economy --the forestry and manufacturing industries have experienced recent severe declines-- has contributed to Indian joblessness. Moreso than most rural workers, tribes in the Pacific Northwest rely on income from the fishing industry which has fluctuated over the last 10 years.

Some of the tribes with populations over 500 have been especially hard hit as the following jobless rates show:

* Yakima (population 7,987) -- 71%
* Spokane (population 1,961) -- 77%
* Lower Elwah (population 1,194) -- 80%
* Port Gamble (population 534) -- 76%

SOUTH DAKOTA

The 1980 census recorded 45,101 American Indians in the state of South Dakota most of whom live on reservation and their border towns. On average, 64 percent of the Indian labor force is out of work, compared with an overall state jobless rate of 5.9 percent. One result of this disparity is that the Sioux have one of the highest rates of poverty among all Indians -- 43.5 percent, contrasted with 30.4 percent for all Indians and 14.4 percent for the nation.

Pine Ridge, the largest reservation in the state and the second largest in the nation typifies the employment and economic development barriers South Dakota Indians face. The BIA, not the Ogala-Sioux, controls all grazing land, leasing it to white ranchers in the area and effectively leaving those in the Indian community with no collateral for business development loans. There is no economy to speak of on the reservation and most of the 18,191 residents depend on the ever-shrinking federal poverty programs.

Jobless rates for the nine federally recognized tribes in January 1985 were:

* Pine Ridge (population 18,191) -- 87%
* Rosebud (population 11,685) -- 86%
* Standing Rock (population 8,443) -- 79%
* Cheyenne River (population 5,150) -- 55%
* Sisseton (population 4,043) -- 80%
* Crow Creek (population 2,355) -- 55%
* Yankton (population 2,929) -- 79%
* Lower Brule (population 1,082) -- 50%

NEW YORK

There are 38,732 American Indians living in the state of New York, according to the 1980 census. The majority reside on reservations and the neighboring metropolitan areas, and have a jobless rate of 56 percent. However, there is a significant Indian presence in New York City experiencing approximately 40 percent joblessness (see urban report, page 12) -- a stark contrast to the statewide average of 7 percent and the New York City rate of 6.5 percent.

The declines in manufacturing, farming, forestry and wood products industries over the last five years contribute to the lack of employment opportunity. Likewise the decreased demand for iron and construction workers has displaced hundreds of Indians. Additionally, the inflated cost of raw materials and increased non-Indian competition have limited crafts production in recent years.

More damaging to the Indian economy, however, are the reductions of government income maintenance and social service programs, and the ever-present problem of discrimination.

The official jobless rates for the six Iroquois Nations in January 1985 were:

* St. Regis Mohawk (population 3,025) -- 71%
* Seneca Nation (population 5,548) -- 50%
* Tonawanda (population 420) -- 56%
* Tuscarora (population 793) -- 56%
* Onondaga (population 669) -- 56%
* Cayuga (population 413) -- 30%
* Oneida (population 211) -- 55%

MONTANA

There are 37,270 American Indians in the state of Montana, 39 percent of whose labor force is out of work. The disparity between this rate of joblessness and the overall state rate (9.1 percent) is due to decline in most of the industries which employ Indian people. Fewer oil and gas companies are engaging in exploration, dislocating hundreds of Indian wildcatters. At the same time, companies are not renewing or taking new leases on resource-rich land which decreases the incomes of many Indians. Low cattle prices, low land values and high interest rates severely limit employment and income from farming and ranching. Many of the copper mines in southwestern Montana have closed in the last few years and the demand for coal is down.

The impact on the seven federally recognized tribes in Montana has been severe, and in some cases, devastating, as the following population and unemployment percentages show.

* Blackfeet (population 6,715) -- 36%
* Crow (population 5,811) -- 64%
* Wind River (population 5,254 -- 79%
* Fort Peck (population 5,073) -- 40%
* Northern Cheyenne (population 3,197) -- 60%
* Fort Belknap (population 2,747) -- 78%
* Rocky Boys (population 2,030) -- 70%

TABLE 1

AMERICAN INDIAN UNEMPLOYMENT — BY STATES
January 1985

State	Overall* Unemployment Rate	American Indian** Unemployment Rate
Alaska	11.3%	51%
Arizona	11.2	41
California	8.0	55
Colorado	6.9	47
Florida	6.5	26
Idaho	9.5	46
Iowa	9.4	66
Kansas	5.8	28
Louisiana	11.2	18
Maine	7.3	22
Michigan	12.1	58
Minnesota	7.5	59
Mississippi	11.6	26
Montana	9.1	39
Nebraska	5.9	60
Nevada	8.8	44
New Mexico	7.9	32
New York	7.0	56
North Carolina	7.1	39
North Dakota	7.5	50
Oklahoma	8.2	18
Oregon	10.3	37
South Dakota	5.9	64
Texas	6.9	20
Utah	7.4	25
Washington	10.8	52
Wisconsin	8.1	49
Wyoming	7.4	65

*/ Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. Department of Labor. The rate listed is the official unemployment rate.

**/ Source: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior. This figure represents American Indians aged 16 and over who are unemployed, able to work and seeking employment. This measure does not take into account Indians who are too discouraged to look for work.

URBAN AREAS

For many American Indians, the cities of our country hold special promise and potential for employment opportunities. Thousands have left reservation lands and rural areas to find jobs in urban centers. Many of these have been sorely disappointed, and leave the city with no job, and few resources, having exhausted savings during their job search.

Unemployment among American Indians in urban areas is difficult to document. Accurate statistics are hard to come by since many Indians stay in metropolitan areas only a short period of time, quickly becoming discouraged and disillusioned by the high cost of housing, food, and other essentials.

The following is a brief overview of the employment situation in a number of major American Indian urban centers. Along with other parts of this report, it too, confronts a distressing reality of unemployment.

Los Angeles: The Los Angeles metropolitan area has recently become the "Indian Capital of the U.S." With 48,000 to 50,000 in Los Angeles County, the number for the entire metro area is 83,258, making this the largest concentration of American Indians in the nation. Nearly every tribe is represented in this urban Indian population, approximately 75 percent of which is permanent. Like the population as a whole the likelihood of employment is closely tied to education, and the ability to match existing skills with jobs. The unemployment rate for the American Indian community in Los Angeles is in excess of 40 percent.

Omaha: The Omaha and Winnebago Tribes make up the major portion of the Omaha urban Indian population. One other tribe, the Sioux, has large numbers of people who have moved to this urban center. The declining farm economy has had a negative effect on employment possibilities, of which the Indian unemployment rate is at 50 percent. The number of Indians in this city is 2,385.

New York City: The number of American Indians in our nation's largest urban area is 13,842. When the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) began in 1983 conservative estimates of the extent of unemployment were from 19 percent for the 23 to 45 year olds, to 45 percent for youth and older age groups. Most feel that these percentages have risen in the last two years. An employee of the JTPA program calls the situation "precarious." The funds available through JTPA are limited to only 180 slots for Indian applicants. The problem is much worse than that.

The American Indian population in New York City is comprised of approximately 67 tribes. The Iroquois make up the largest of these groups. Many are interested in jobs utilizing artistic skills and view New York as the center for the arts, and therefore and a logical place to begin their search.

Chicago: Chicago's American Indian population shares many of the characteristics of other U.S. cities--high unemployment rates, housing shortages, a high degree of transiency. The number in Chicago is 10,708--the number for the Chicago metro area may be twice as high. Social service workers in this area indicate that the employment situation has worsened drastically in the last two years. In some instances the case loads have nearly doubled.

The American Indian community in Chicago is not as well organized as in other urban centers. There is no central gathering area, no defined neighborhood making communication and coordination of job searches difficult.

Minneapolis/St. Paul: In the combined cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul Minnesota, the population of American Indians is 15,950. Of this number the unemployment rate is 49 percent. Three quarters of this number are made up of workers between the ages of 22 and 44 years, and 60 percent are male. The predominant tribes are Chippewa and Sioux.

STATE AND COMMUNITY JOBLESS DATA

The official national average unemployment rate masks the disproportionate burden on particular states and communities. As of July 1985, 42 states had higher official unemployment rates than in 1979, the period preceding the last two recessions. The official rates tell only part of the story. By taking into account underemployed and discouraged workers, the Full Employment Action Council has calculated "real" jobless rates for states and metropolitan areas. In real rates terms, 40 states had jobless rates in the double digit range. The official and real rates of joblessness in each state are included in Table 2.

Many hard hit communities are still reeling from the effects of the recession. Of the 24 communities ranking in the top 20 for joblessness, all had official unemployment rates above 10 percent and all had higher rates than in 1979. In real terms, their jobless rates ranged in July from 19.6 percent to 37.9 percent. Fifteen of the 20 largest metropolitan areas registered higher real jobless rates in July 1985 than in 1979. Fourteen had real jobless rates in the double digit range. Tables 3 and 4 contain information on metropolitan jobless rates.

An analysis of state unemployment rates reveals an enormous disparity between the average state rates and the rates for the state American Indian populations. While the official unemployment rate in 28 states ranged from 5.8 percent to 7.4 percent earlier this year, the state rates for American Indians ranged from 18 percent to 66 percent. For example, Indians in South Dakota had a jobless rate 11 times that of the state average. In Wyoming the ratio was 9 to 1, and in New York 8 to 1. Even in states where the gap was narrower, like Louisiana and Oklahoma, the American Indian rate was still 1 and a half to 2 times the state rate. Table 1 provides a comparison of overall and American Indian unemployment rates for 28 states.

PUBLIC POLICY OPTIONS

Federal assistance to unemployed American Indians can take the form of direct employment and training programs as well as support for economic development within individual tribes. The following are examples of both direct and indirect federal job creation efforts presently awaiting Congressional action.

The American Conservation Corps, modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930's, is a direct federal job creation program passed by both houses of Congress last year, but vetoed by President Reagan. The program, reintroduced this year as HR. 99 and S. 27, would establish a youth work program to provide for the conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of natural and cultural resources located on public or Indian lands. The bill contains a 5 percent tribal set-aside and requires the consent of tribes for projects on Indian land. The legislation enjoys wide public support and would provide hard to employ Indian youth with direct federally funded job opportunities. HR. 99 passed the House in July of this year, and S. 27 is pending before the Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation Subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

The Community Renewal Employment Act (HR. 670) would provide employment opportunities to jobless individuals in high unemployment areas through grants to local governments. The grant money would be used for labor costs associated with the repair, maintenance or rehabilitation of essential public facilities; the conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of public lands; and for public safety, health and social service activities essential to the public welfare. Eighty percent of the funds would be earmarked for community improvement projects; the remaining 20 percent would fund educational facility repair projects. Of the community improvement projects money, 2 percent would be set-aside for Native American eligible entities. The measureis awaiting action by the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities of the House Education and Labor Committee. A similar bill was passed by the House in 1983.

Two programs which support economic development and tribal self-sufficiency must be reauthorized this year. The Administration for Native Americans, (ANA) an office of the Department of Health and Human Services, provides grants to tribal governments to help them plan, develop and implement programs for social and economic growth. Programs developed under ANA grants must encourage citizen participation and include community organizations. ANA's emphasis on self-sufficiency and local control promotes tribal independence and, as a result, has enjoyed wide support throughout the American Indian community since the program's inception in 1974. In the House, HR. 3247, which reauthorizes the program, is awaiting action by the Committee on Education and Labor. There is currently no equivalent Senate measure.

The Small Business Administration, (SBA) through the Section 8 (a) program, provides businesses owned and controlled by individual Indians and tribes with management and technical assistance, procurement assistance for federal contracts and loans for start-up and other costs. The full Senate reauthorized the SBA in July 1985. The House bill, HR. 2540 awaits action by the Judiciary Committee.

The astounding statistics recorded in this report--unemployment rates as high as 87 percent in some cases--need not be signs of hopelessness. By beginning the implementation of a genuine full employment strategy we can reverse this distressing trend.

TABLE 2

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES %

State	Annual Average 1979 Official Rate	Annual Average 1979 Real Rate	July 1985 (Most Recent) Official* Rate	July 1985 (Most Recent) Real** Rate
Alabama	7.1	12.1	9.3	16.7
Alaska	9.2	15.6	9.2	16.6
Arizona	5.1	8.8	7.1	12.7
Arkansas	6.2	10.5	8.8	15.8
California	6.2	10.5	7.7	13.8
Colorado	4.8	8.2	5.4	9.7
Connecticut	5.1	8.7	5.7	10.2
Delaware	8.0	13.6	5.5	9.9
District of Columbia	7.5	12.8	8.9	16.0
Florida	6.0	10.2	7.0	12.6
Georgia	5.1	8.7	7.3	13.1
Hawaii	6.3	10.7	5.6	10.0
Idaho	5.7	9.7	7.4	13.3
Illinois	5.5	9.4	8.9	16.0
Indiana	6.4	10.9	7.3	13.1
Iowa	4.1	7.0	7.4	13.3
Kansas	3.4	5.8	4.7	8.4
Kentucky	5.6	9.5	9.1	16.3
Louisiana	6.7	11.4	11.6	20.8
Maine	7.2	12.2	5.6	10.0
Maryland	5.9	10.0	4.4	7.9
Massachusetts	5.5	9.4	4.3	7.7
Michigan	7.8	13.5	10.8	19.4
Minnesota	4.2	7.1	5.4	9.7
Mississippi	5.8	9.9	10.9	19.6
Missouri	4.5	7.7	6.3	11.3
Montana	5.1	8.7	6.7	12.1
Nebraska	3.2	5.4	5.1	9.1
Nevada	5.1	8.7	8.2	14.7
New Hampshire	3.1	5.3	5.1	9.1
New Jersey	6.9	11.7	6.0	10.8
New Mexico	6.6	11.2	9.5	17.1
New York	7.1	12.1	6.1	10.9
North Carolina	4.8	8.2	5.6	10.0
North Dakota	3.7	6.3	5.2	9.3
Ohio	5.9	10.0	9.3	16.7
Oklahoma	3.4	5.8	6.8	12.2
Oregon	6.8	11.6	9.0	16.2

(continued)

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES %

State	Annual Average 1979 Official Rate	Annual Average 1979 Real Rate	July 1985 (Most Recent) Official* Rate	July 1985 (Most Recent) Real** Rate
Pennsylvania	6.9	11.7	7.8	14.0
Rhode Island	6.6	11.2	5.6	10.0
South Carolina	5.0	8.5	6.7	12.0
South Dakota	3.5	5.6	5.3	9.5
Tennessee	5.8	9.9	8.7	15.6
Texas	4.2	7.1	7.7	13.8
Utah	4.3	7.3	5.7	10.2
Vermont	5.1	8.7	4.9	8.8
Virginia	4.7	8.0	5.8	10.4
Washington	6.8	11.6	7.9	14.2
West Virginia	6.7	11.4	13.4	24.1
Wisconsin	4.5	7.7	6.7	12.0
Wyoming	2.8	4.8	6.2	11.1

*/ Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**/ The real rate of unemployment takes into account the numbers of officially unemployed, part-time for economic reasons and discouraged workers. In July, the official unemployment rate was 7.3 percent, while the real jobless rate was 13.0 percent.

TABLE 3

TWENTY HIGHEST METROPOLITAN AREAS UNEMPLOYMENT (%)

	Location	Annual Average 1979 Official Rate	Annual Average 1979 Real Rate	July 1985 (most recent) Official* Rate	July 1985 (most recent) Real** Rate
1.	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	12.0	20.4	21.1	37.9
2.	Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	9.8	16.7	16.0	28.8
3.	Modesto, CA	11.8	20.1	15.5	27.9
4.	Brownsville-Harlingen, TX	8.5	14.5	14.9	26.8
5.	Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX	5.9	10.0	14.8	26.6
6.	Laredo, TX	10.7	18.2	14.5	26.1
7.	Lake Charles, LA	6.8	11.6	14.2	25.5
8.	Waterloo-Cedar Falls, IA	4.8	8.2	13.0	23.4
9.	Stockton, CA	9.9	16.8	12.7	22.8
10.	Huntington-Ashland, WV	6.3	10.7	12.4	22.3
	Wheeling, WV	6.4	10.9	12.4	22.3
11.	Beaver County, PA	N/A	N/A	12.3	22.1
12.	Kankakee, IL	8.1	13.8	12.0	21.6
13.	El Paso, TX	7.9	13.4	11.9	21.4
	Galveston-Texas City, TX	5.2	8.8	11.9	21.4
14.	New Orleans, LA	5.9	10.0	11.7	21.1
15.	Parkersburg-Marietta, WV	6.0	10.2	11.4	20.5
	Gary-Hammond, IN	6.6	11.2	11.4	20.5
16.	Youngstown-Warren, OH	7.2	12.2	11.3	20.3
17.	Fresno, CA	8.0	13.6	11.2	20.1
	Canton, OH	5.7	9.7	11.2	20.1
18.	Johnstown, PA	8.9	15.1	11.1	19.9
19.	Peoria, IL	5.4	9.2	11.0	19.8
20.	Las Cruces, NM	N/A	N/A	10.9	19.6

*/ SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**/ The real rate of unemployment takes into account the numbers of officially unemployed, part-time for economic reasons and discouraged workers. In July, the official unemployment rate was 7.3 percent, while the real jobless rate was 13.0 percent.

TABLE 4

TWENTY LARGEST METROPOLITAN AREAS UNEMPLOYMENT (%)

	Location	Annual Average 1979 Official Rate	Annual Average 1979 Real Rate	July 1985 (most recent) Official* Rate	July 1985 (most recent) Real** Rate
1.	New York, NY	8.1	13.8	6.5	11.7
2.	Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	5.5	9.4	8.2	14.8
3.	Chicago, IL	5.2	8.8	8.4	15.1
4.	Philadelphia, PA	6.9	11.7	6.0	10.8
5.	San Francisco, CA	5.6	9.5	5.2	9.4
6.	Detroit, MI	8.0	13.6	N/A	N/A
7.	Boston, MA	5.3	9.0	3.7	6.7
8.	Houston,TX	3.3	5.6	8.4	15.1
9.	Washington, D.C.	9.7	12.8	8.9	16.0
10.	Dallas, TX	3.6	6.1	5.2	9.4
11.	Miami-Hialeah, FL	6.3	10.7	8.1	14.6
12.	Cleveland, OH	5.0	8.5	9.0	16.2
13.	St. Louis, MO	5.4	9.2	7.4	13.3
14.	Atlanta, GA	4.6	7.8	5.6	10.1
15.	Pittsburgh, PA	5.9	10.0	7.2	13.0
16.	Baltimore, MD	6.6	11.2	5.2	9.4
17.	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	3.3	5.6	4.4	7.9
18.	Seattle, WA	5.3	9.0	6.0	10.8
19.	San Diego, CA	6.2	10.5	6.0	10.8
20.	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	5.4	9.2	5.7	10.3

*/SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**/ The real rate of unemployment takes into account the numbers of officially unemployed, part-time for economic reasons and discouraged workers. In July the official unemployment rate was 7.3 percent, while the real jobless rate was 13.0 percent.